

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 10184 271553Z
ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 /018 W
-----054337 280531Z /20
R 271541Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7591
INFO AMCONSUL BELFAST

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FOR A/SY/FO AND A/SY/T

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: ASEC
SUBJ: ANTI-TERRORISM PROGRAM - ARMORING OF OFFICIAL CAR

THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE WAS DRAFTED BY CONGEN BELFAST.

1. IN THE COURSE OF IMPROVING THE PHYSICAL SECURITY OF THE CONGEN OFFICE AND THE RESIDENCES, THE AMERICAN-MADE OFFICIAL SEDAN WAS RECENTLY REPLACED BY A UK CHRYSLER MODEL, WHICH HAS RIGHTHAND DRIVE, IS SMALLER, AND IS INCONSPICUOUS. IN ADDITION TO THE USUAL ARMOR FOR THE CAR (DOORS AND REAR SEAT), I REPEATEDLY ASKED THAT ARMOR BE FITTED UNDER THE BODY, AND WAS TOLD THAT IT IS NOT TECHNICALLY POSSIBLE.

2. WE SEE TWO THREATS TO AMERICAN PERSONNEL IN NORTHERN IRELAND: (A) FROM CASUAL VIOLENCE, I.E., BEING CAUGHT IN SOMETHING INADVERTANTLY; OR (B) BEING SPECIFICALLY TARGETED BY ONE OF THE PROVINCE'S PARAMILITARY ORGANIZATIONS. THE NORMAL ARMORING OF THE CAR OFFERS US REASONABLE PROTECTION AGAINST CASUAL VIOLENCE, BUT DOES NOT COVER US WELL ENOUGH SHOULD WE EVER BE TARGETED SPECIFICALLY.

3. HYPOTHETICAL THOUGH IT IS, A DIRECT THREAT WOULD COME

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FROM THE PROVISIONAL IRA. IN THAT CONNECTION WE NOTE:
(A) PIRA KILLED THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR IN DUBLIN IN 1976 WITH A MINE THAT WENT OFF UNDER HIS CAR. (B) IT USES SIMILAR MINES AGAINST SECURITY FORCES IN NORTHERN IRELAND AND IN RECENT MONTHS SEVERAL TIMES USED BOOBY TRAPS UNDERNEATH CAR BODIES THAT WERE ACTIVATED BY THE FRONT WHEELS. STANDARD CAR ARMOR WOULD DO US NO GOOD AGAINST

SUCH TACTICS.

4. ACTION RECOMMENDED: IF THE DEPARTMENT IS NOT ALREADY
DOING SO, DEVELOP THE MEANS TO ARMOR THE BOTTOM OF CARS
IN SUCH A WAY THAT THE CAR CAN STILL BE MAINTAINED AND
USED CONVENIENTLY.

BREWSTER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
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Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Line Count: 70
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 8e20667f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SY
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Subject: ANTI-TERRORISM PROGRAM - ARMORING OF OFFICIAL CAR THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE WAS DRAFTED BY CONGEN BELFAST.
TAGS: ASEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
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